



# ANNUAL REPORT | Fiscal Year 2020

utah department of  
**human services**  
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES



The data in this report is measured by state fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) unless otherwise stated.

For a copy of this report, or to find previous annual reports please go to [dcfs.utah.gov](https://dcfs.utah.gov). For questions about this report please contact DCFS Public Information Officer Sarah Welliver at [swelliver@utah.gov](mailto:swelliver@utah.gov).

# Utah Division of Child and Family Services



## Safe Children

Safety is the reason we exist. The mission of the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) is to keep children safe from abuse and neglect and provide domestic violence services by working with communities and strengthening families.

## Strengthened Families

A child's physical and emotional well-being largely exists within the context of the adults in their life. When a family is strengthened through individualized, trauma-informed, community-based services that are both safety driven and family driven, an environment that promotes child safety and well-being is created.

## Supported Workforce

Our most important resource in achieving success with children and families is our staff. They enter the lives of children and families at times of crisis and vulnerability. The professionalism and skill of our staff in engaging, teaming, assessing, planning, and intervening with children and families are essential to good outcomes. Due to the complex and critical nature of child welfare, our community expects and deserves a well trained, experienced, ethical, compassionate, and supported workforce.

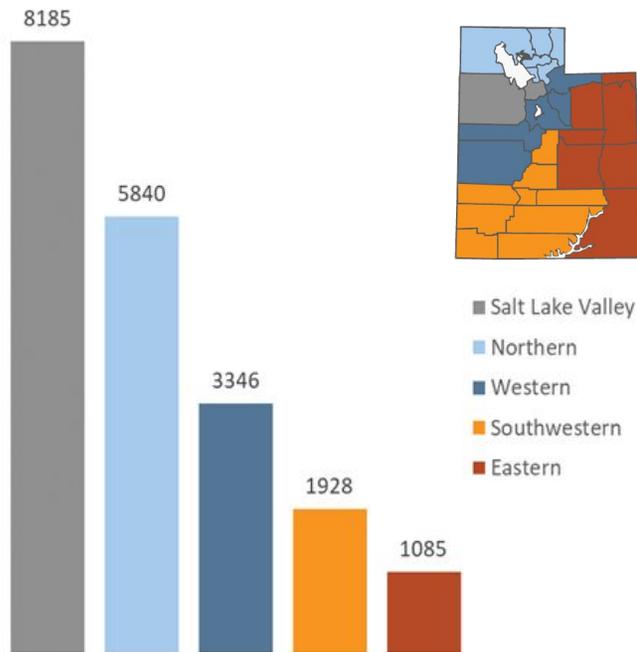
## Integrated Service Community

DCFS is not the child welfare system — we are the child welfare agency within a much larger social service system. Our ability to provide timely, effective, and extensive services to our most vulnerable populations is integrated within a robust network of legal partners and private and public community providers.

## Family Engagement

The moment Child Protective Services (CPS) becomes involved with a family, our goal is to assess for safety concerns, work with the family to create an effective safety plan, and provide effective interventions that promote child safety and strengthen parents.

**Geographic Breakdown of New Child Protective Services Cases by DCFS Region, FY 2020**



**40,364**

Total number of child abuse and neglect reports received by DCFS

**20,713**

Reports accepted for formal CPS assessment

**7,334**

Number of confirmed CPS reports of abuse and neglect

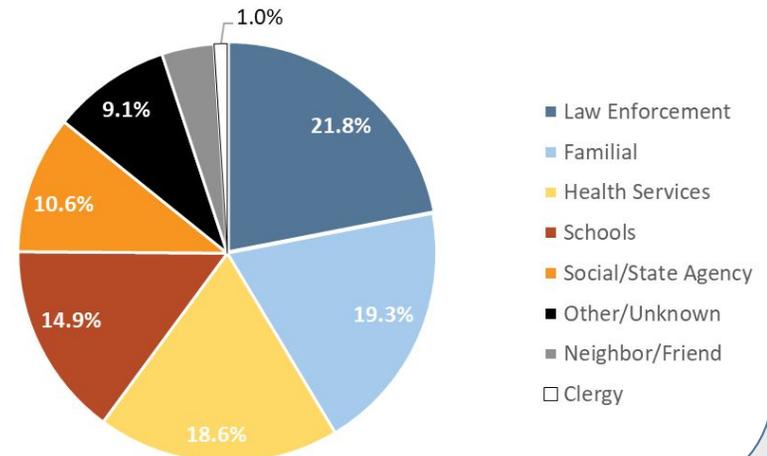
**2,645**

Number of cases with in-home services

**1,421**

Number of new foster care cases from CPS

**Sources of CPS Reports of Abuse and Neglect Accepted for Assessment During FY 2020**



### Child victims in Utah:

**10,564**

Number of confirmed child victims of abuse or neglect

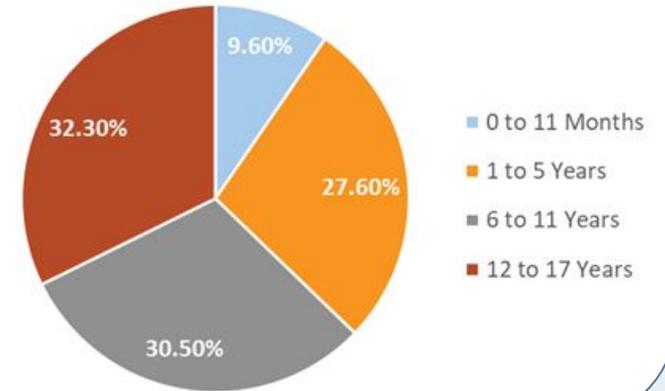
**8,318**

Confirmed child victims with referrals to community services without further DCFS involvement

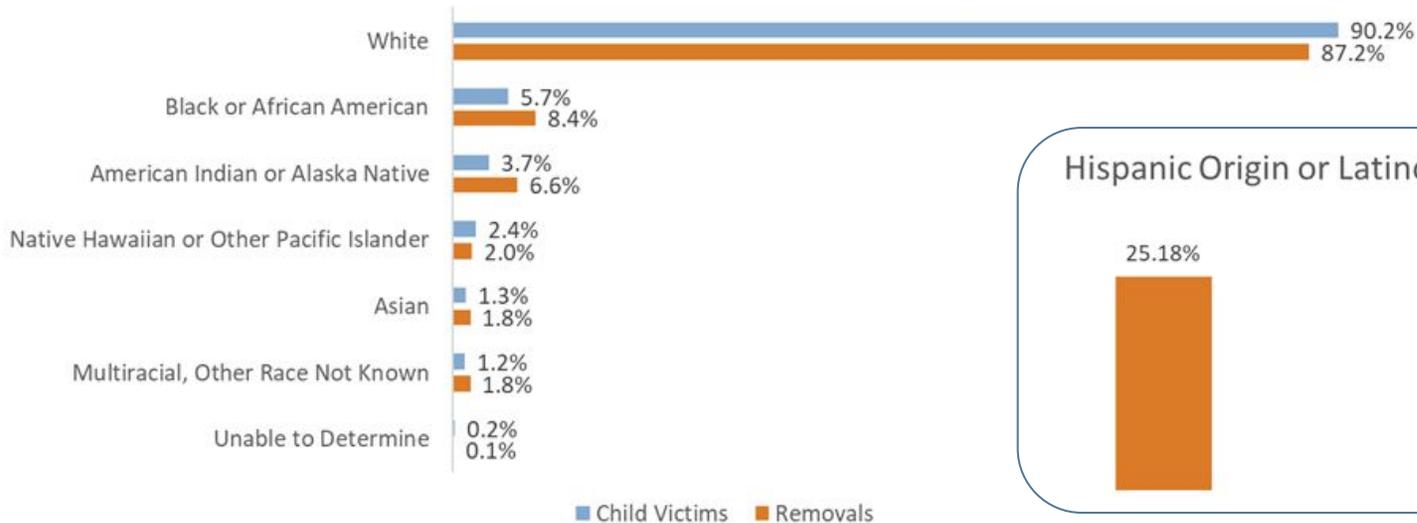
**93.7%**

Victims with a supported finding who did not experience repeat maltreatment within 6 months

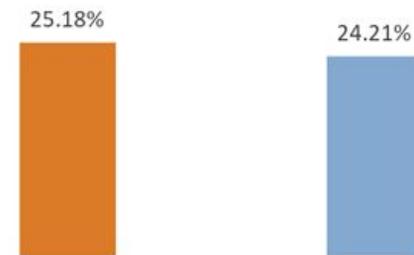
### Confirmed Child Victims by Age for FY 2020



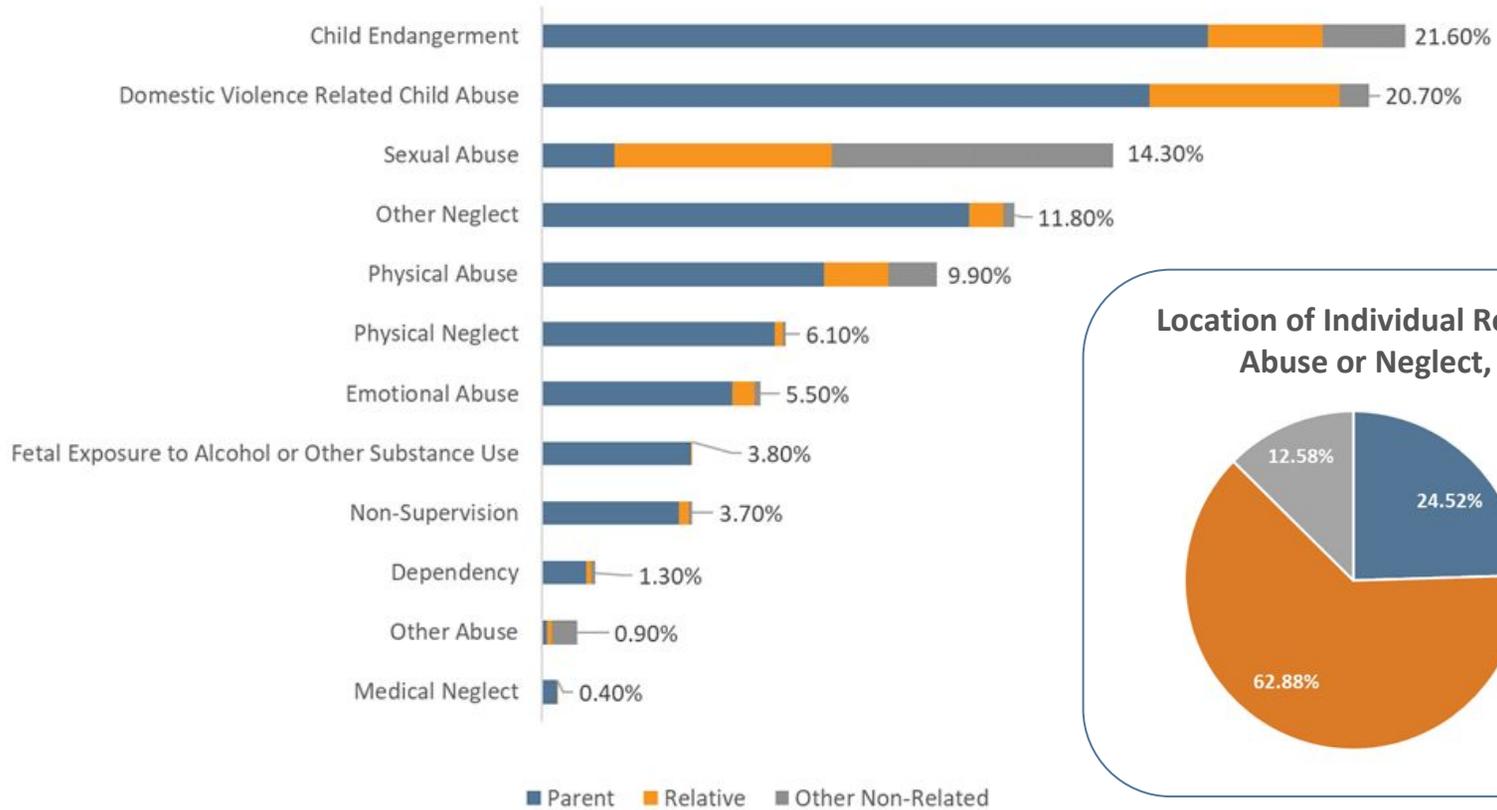
### Race Among Confirmed Child Victims vs. Child Removals into Foster Care, FY 2020



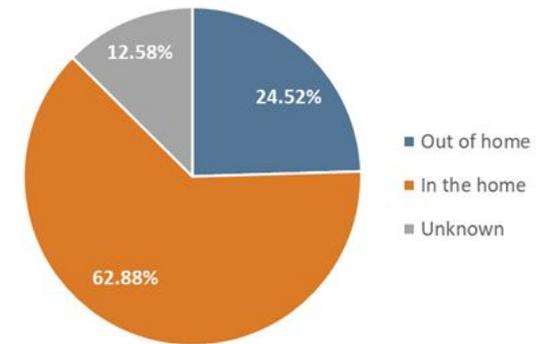
### Hispanic Origin or Latino Ethnicity



### Confirmed Allegations by Type and Relationship of Individual Responsible for Abuse or Neglect to Child Victim, FY 2020



### Location of Individual Responsible for Abuse or Neglect, FY 2020



**Other Neglect** includes: Abandonment, educational neglect, failure to protect, failure to thrive, sibling/child at risk.

**Other Abuse** includes: Dealing in material harmful to a child, human trafficking (sexual), lewdness, sexual exploitation.

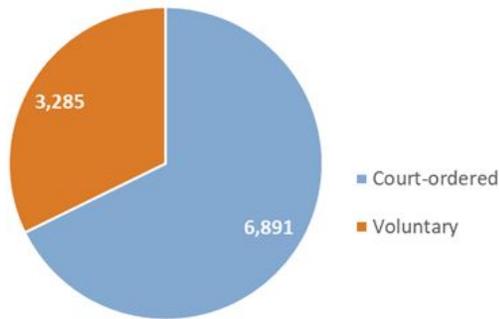
PLEASE NOTE: Percentages shown in the chart at left are based on the total number of allegations received, NOT the total number of cases with each allegation. The total number of allegations in FY 2020 was 16,887.

The goal of in-home services is to keep children safely at home while addressing abuse or neglect through family-driven, solution-focused interventions.

In-home services can include:

- Child and Family Team Meetings that bring the family, members of their support system, and service providers together to help set solution-focused goals to address safety concerns.
- Developing child safety plans with the family to address and manage safety concerns.
- Linking the family to evidence-based community resources including mental health treatment, parenting skills, and substance use disorder treatment.

Voluntary vs. Court-Ordered In-Home Services



In some situations safety can be achieved when a family works collaboratively and voluntarily with DCFS to address risk factors. At other times these services are court ordered to ensure the best outcomes for children and their families.

**2,645**

Total number of in-home services cases

**5,071**

Total number of children receiving in-home services

**161 days**

Median length of cases that closed during FY 2020, compared to 12 months for foster care

**90.5%**

In-home child clients who did not have a subsequent supported CPS case within 12 months of case closure (based on prior year's case closures reported in FY 2020).

**4,877**

Total number of adults receiving in-home services

Placement with family best reduces trauma and preserves a child's connection to their culture, biology, ancestry, and community.

Kinship care allows a child to stay in the care of a family member or friend who is willing to meet the child's needs, including working with the child's parent(s) toward reunification, or providing a permanent home.

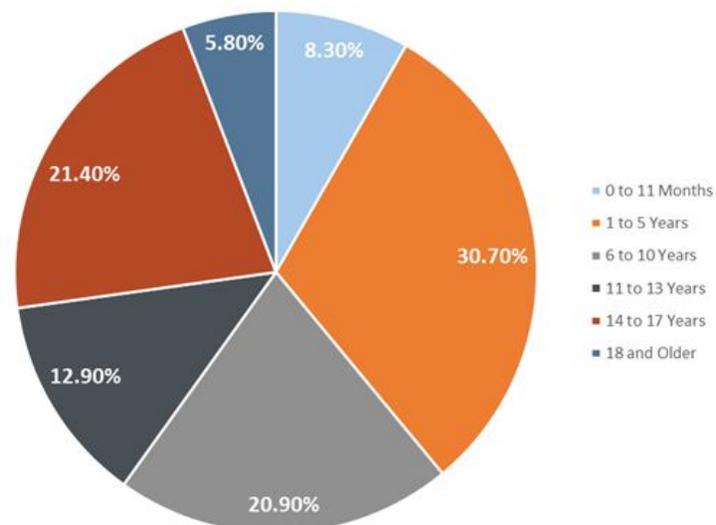
**1,934**

Children served in kinship placement

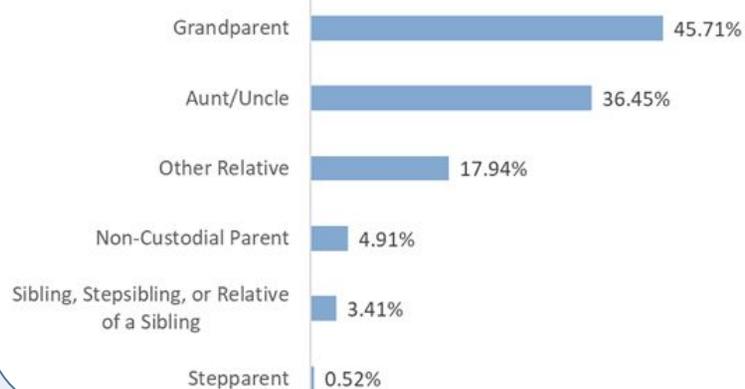
**94.3%**

Children who exited foster care to a relative and did not re-enter foster care within 12 months.

Children in Foster by Age on June 30, 2020



Relationship of Kinship Caregiver to Children Placed in Kinship Care during FY 2020



Comparison of Exits to Entries of Children in Foster Care During FY 2016 through FY 2020



**4,226**

Total children served in foster care at some point during the year

**83.69%**

Children in care less than 12 months with two or fewer placements

**16.6%**

Children in care on June 30, 2020, that have been in care for more than 24 months

**94.5%**

Children whose cases closed during previous fiscal year who did not re-enter care

## Every child deserves safety, stability and permanency.

Continued efforts to find meaningful, loving, permanent, and safe living environments are critical for children who do come into foster care. Safe reunification with their families of origin is optimal.

For children who cannot reunify safely with their family, adoption services can connect children to a home through relatives, families who fostered them, or other families seeking to adopt.

### 11 months

Median time in care for children who exited foster care to reunification

### 453

Children who were adopted or achieved permanent custody with a relative

### 18 months

Median time in care for children who exited foster care to adoption

### 356

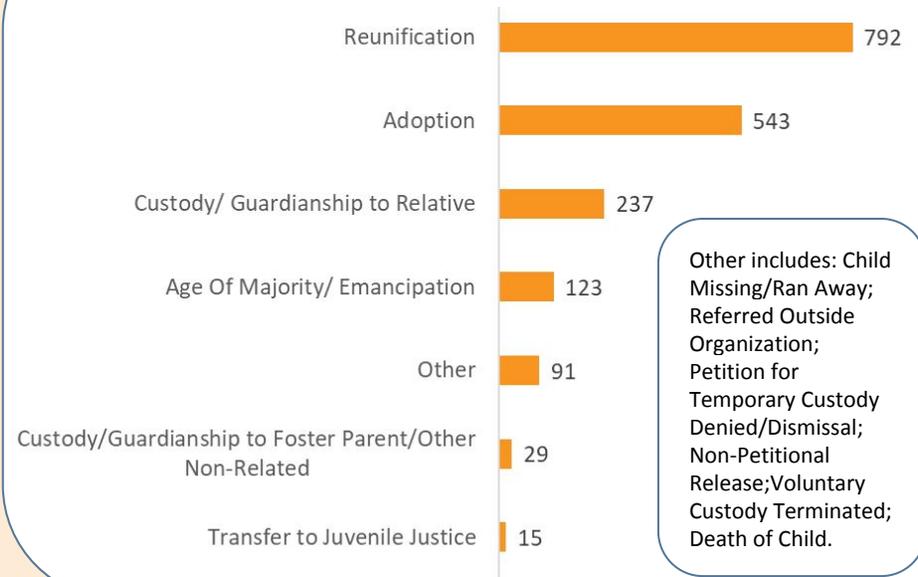
Children who were adopted or achieved permanent custody with a non-relative

## Youth who exit foster care without a permanent home need added supports.

No service can replace the stability and connection of a family. We provide assistance to youth ages 14 to 21 and continue to work with community partners toward reunification, kinship care, or adoption until youth leave our care.

The Transition to Adulthood Living (TAL) program utilizes a network of organizations to offer services including academic mentoring, financial planning, career preparation, and limited financial assistance.

## Reasons Children Exited Foster Care During FY 2020



Other includes: Child Missing/Ran Away; Referred Outside Organization; Petition for Temporary Custody Denied/Dismissal; Non-Petitional Release; Voluntary Custody Terminated; Death of Child.

## Aged 14+ Youth in Care:

### 1,132

Total youth aged 14 and older served in foster care in FY 2020

### 949

Total count of youth who received transition to adult services in FY 2020

### 123

Total youth who exited foster care at age of majority/emancipation without a permanent home.

### Supporting Family Well-being

Prevention of child abuse and neglect is a focus of DCFS through local community-based services that include:

- Parenting classes
- 5 evidence-based home visitation programs
- Statewide community and school-based education presentations
- Support to grandparents raising grandchildren
- 17 crisis nurseries in local Family Support Centers across the state

Over \$2.5 million of federal and state funds were provided through DCFS for these community-based prevention services in FY 2020.

### Domestic Violence Services

Connecting adults affected by domestic violence to trauma-informed services also enhances stability, safety and permanency for children. Domestic violence services provided by local shelter and treatment programs with federal and state funding through DCFS include:

- 15 domestic violence shelters
- Trauma-informed therapy, financial planning and safety planning
- Assistance with protective orders
- LINKline domestic violence crisis hotline
- Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) program utilized by law enforcement and victims advocates to assist and educate victims
- Trauma-focused treatment for both survivors and offenders.

Over \$7.4 million dollars was provided through DCFS for domestic violence services in FY 2020.

### Impact of Substance Use Disorder:

**2,686**

Confirmed cases of abuse and neglect involving substance use disorder

**1,057**

Victims of abuse and neglect involving substance use disorder who received subsequent in-home DCFS services

**141**

Victims of abuse and neglect involving substance use disorder who entered foster care when in-home services could not maintain safety

### Domestic Violence Services in Utah:

**31,451**

Number of calls from the LINKline crisis hotline received by shelters

**3,168**

Number of adult and child clients served in domestic violence shelters

**922**

Number of cases that found homelessness/economic disadvantage to be a contributing factor

**2,191**

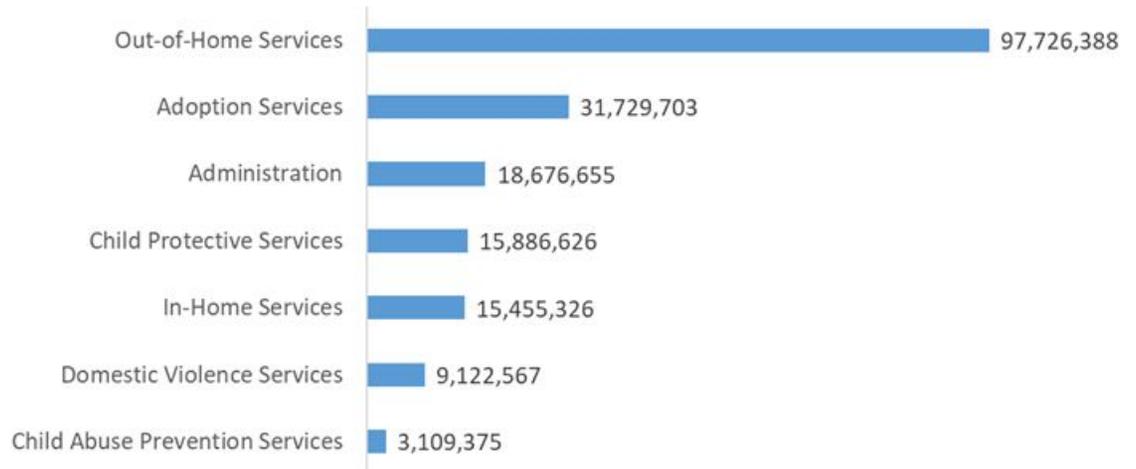
Number of requests for shelter that went unmet

The budget for the division is primarily made up of a mix of state general fund, federal funds and dedicated credits.

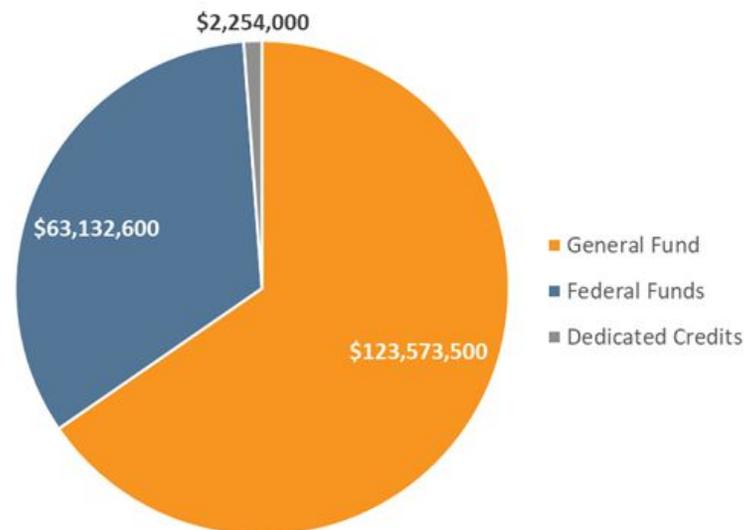
The following four general fund restricted accounts are appropriated by the Legislature and distributed through DCFS for services that focus on child abuse prevention and treatment programs, adoption, health and education programs for women and children, and domestic violence services:

- Children’s Account
- Choose Life Adoption Support Restricted Account
- National Professional Men’s Basketball Team Support Women and Children Issues Restricted Account
- Victims of Domestic Violence Services Account

### DCFS FY 2020 Actual Expenditures by Program



### FY 2020 Operating & Capital Budget Sources



# A Fully Integrated Child Welfare System

As Utah's child-welfare and legal communities work toward a fully integrated child-welfare system that is focused on best practices, we are united in our commitment to protecting children and strengthening families. As such, we have come together to develop the following core principles that reflect our overarching goals of child safety, well-being, and permanency.

## WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THE FOLLOWING:

- 1 Our interventions preserve and create safe family and community connections in ways that minimize loss, harm, and disruption.
- 2 Children and families receive early, intensive family engagement, advocacy, and access to services and supports.
- 3 All participants are empowered and valued within a trauma-informed environment that amplifies family voice.
- 4 Children and families are served by highly-skilled professionals, including the judiciary, attorneys, child-welfare staff, foster parents, and other community partners.
- 5 All participants experience hearings and judicial orders that are consistent, of high quality, embody best practices, and afford all participants due process of law.
- 6 All participants are committed to providing families with an experience that is safety-driven, compassionate, transparent, and forward-moving.
- 7 Our interventions in the lives of children and families will be effective and individualized regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, cultural heritage, country of origin, gender, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

These core principles embody a collaborative, cross-system, statewide child-welfare transformation, supported by the following Utah child-welfare professionals:

- Board of Juvenile Court Judges
- Juvenile Court Improvement Program
- Office of Guardian ad Litem and Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Department of Human Services
- Utah Attorney General's Office, Child Protection Division
- Parental Defense Alliance of Utah
- Division of Child and Family Services
- Lokken & Associates, P.C.